LEAVES OF THYME

VOL. XIX, No. 4 April, 1968

MARCH MEETING

We were most interested in having Dr. Pace with us again and have his account of the interesting excavations and findings that he and his fellow "diggers" have made. We could share in some of the excitement of the discoveries without doing any of the digging or other physical work on the project! We appreciated his willingness to share the experiences with us.

APRIL MEETING

April is the birth month of Paul Dresser and is a suitable time for a program relating to him. This is also the time when the Dresser house will be opened for visitors. Since the building has no heat, it is necessary to close it during the cold weather. As soon as the annual cleaning is completed, the house will be ready for visitors. If any of you are free and would like to be a host or hostess at Dresser House 2 PM to 4 PM either Wednesday or Sunday, call Mrs. Clark.

The program will be given by Mr. Vincent Clews a graduate student at ISU, who is working on his Master's degree in Educational Television. He is writing a documentary on Paul Dresser, and wll discuss this with us.

The meeting will be held on April 18, at 7:30 PM at the Museum. Anyone who is interested is most welcome. If you have not seen the new *Country Store* display, you can enjoy seeing it at the same time.

Vigo County Public Library
PAMPHLET FILE

Hosmer, Harriet

NOTES ON THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF TERRE HAUTE AND MISS HARRIET HOSMER

In response to an inquiry in the article *Clubs for Women in Terre Haute* by Marion H. Gray, we have some interesting information from Frances Hughes as follows:

The Woman's Club of Terre Haute was founded in 1879 with a limited membership. In 1920 it joined with other clubs to form the Woman's Department Club.

From February until April of 1889, Miss Harriet Hosmer visited in Terre Haute with a distant cousin, Mrs. Charles Fuller, who lived in the 400 block on North Center Strtet. This was during her period of retirement when she was making scientific investigations here.

She became interested in the Woman's Club, and was a speaker on the subject of the Brownings at a study program of the Young Woman's Club, formed by daughters of members of the older club in 1891 at the Chauncey Rose Home. She also attended meetings in the winter of 1890 and again in 1897 of the Art Association of Indianapolis, to which she presented the plaster cast of the Browning Hands.

When she presented the bronze cast to the local club, she was made an honorary member of that organization. A card with the hands reads "To the Terre Haute Woman's Club with affectionate regards, Harriet Hosmer, Terre Haute, Indiana, March 10, 1898." The hands were first kept by individual members, then on loan to the Fairbanks Library and then the Swope Gallery. They were returned to the Club in 1961.

Miss Harriet Hosmer was born October 9, 1830. She was left an orphan when quite young and was reared in the family of a relative in Watertown, Mass. A daughter of the house married Charles Fuller, who came to Terre Haute as an executive of the Vandalia Railroad, and it was she whom the sculptress visited here. Her interest in sculpture started as a child when she modeled from a clay pit in the garden of her home.

After elementary education, she attended Mrs. Sedgwick's private school in Lennox for 3 years. This was followed by lessons in drawing, modeling and anatomy in Boston. When she decided to make sculpture her life work, she applied to several medical schools for the study of anatomy. One school after another turned her down since women were not then accepted, but she was finally able to study at the Missouri Medical College of St. Louis.

In Rome in 1853, when she was studying there with the leading English sculptor, John Gibson, she met Robert and Elizabeth Browning and they became close friends of hers.

She made a special study of hands, and asked permission of the couple to make a study of their hands. They agreed, on condition that she make

the cast herself. These hands were her most famous work. The bronze cast of The Browning Hands is believed to be one of only five casts ever made from the original.

Miss Hosmer died February 21, 1908 in Watertown, Massachusetts, where she retired.

THEY WHO CAME EARLY

Credit is given to the Stiles Expedition as being that which made the first settlement on the Ohio River n 1788, whch became Cincinnati. George G. Bailey accompanied the expedition. He had two daughters, Rachel (Bailey) Brown, and her older sister Catherine.

This Brown family was tied up with the early settlement of Terre Haute. Bailey's two sons were killed by Indians, as was Abel Cook, husband of Catherine. She married later a man by the name of Digby.

This group migrated to Indiana. The parents of the girls died en route on the Wabash, near Vincennes, but the others arrived safely that year, 1817. Robert and Rachel Brown continued to live in Terre Haute until 1831 when they went to Lafayette.

John Taylor, born in Pennsylvania in 1802, wrote an amazing autobiography which was published in the 1967 *Year Book of the Society of Pioneers*. It is accompanied with notes by Alameda McCullough. The article is of particular interest to Terre Haute historians for Taylor also lived in this city for a while before moving to Lafayette. There in 1832 he married Mary Ann Brown, Robert's daughter, whom he may have met in Terre Haute.

It was in March 1824 in Rossville this hazardous journey of Taylor's starts.

* * * * * * * * *

Myself, a young man named Duffield, and John Rumley purchased a small flat boat, fit it up in good style, each put on board what worldly goods and chattels we had. We hired Joseph Ewing by the month, thinking at that time we could push our boat up the Wabash. I was chosen commander by a unanimous vote. The river being in good boating order, soon after we left the landing we gave three cheers, answered by many from the banks and bridges, which were lined with our longtried friends and relatives. I had taken the place assigned to me, alone at the stern, the others belonging to this boat, together with a number of citizens intending to accompany us a few miles of our journey, at the bow. I took that opportunity to shed a flood of tears that had been gathering for some time, held back on account of a chance to do the subject justice. After this flood of passion had subsided, which lasted but a short time, I gave the word to oars, which broke the spell and I was myself again.

Mr. Duffield had a brother-in-law who was going a short distance with us and was said to be a river pilot. Duffield insisted that this man, Mr. Crane, should take the stern, and I gave it up with reluctance, satisfied in my own mind that there were many a good river man that knew but little about running a boat over a mill-dam. Well, the first dam we came to, he came near sinking our little boat, had I not interfered just in time to save her. This was Renfrow dam. The next was Coldram dam. Rumley, a very cautious and timorous man, came up to me and inquired if this next dam was any better to cross. I answered that it was, but I was fearful Mr. Crane did not understand his business. By this time, Duffield came forward and observed that his brother knew all about the river and could take us over as clear as a whistle. But this was not the case. We stuck on the dam, several rods from the right place.

"Well, what is to be done?" now inquired Mr. Rumley.

Send ashore for a boat and unload part of her freight. After a half day's hard work, we got our boat off and tied up for the night. Our pilot took his leave soon after we got stuck. The next day we went through a great many bad places without any difficulty, which raised me in their estimation as pilot, except Duffield, and he could not see why I should be any better pilot than any of them.

Well, when we got to Louisville, nothing would do but he must go and employ a pilot to run us over the falls. In about two hours they returned with a man who was to take us across or over for two dollars. I happened to be acquainted with the gambler, for he was a bad man and an impostor. I told Rumley I knew Joe Combs too well to risk it, but if he was willing, I would take the boat over and save the two dollars, and no doubt the boat, also. This was made known to Duffield, who swore outright and said that it was all ——, that he had crossed a great many very bad mill dams, but they were not a patching to the falls, and he had no idea we could cross without a pilot that knew the channel. After some time, he consented, with the understanding that they attend strictly to orders and keep quiet.

So out we put. The river was very low and consequently very difficult to keep the channel. We did keep it, notwithstanding the channel was very crooked and not over safe. Now Duffield broke out in a fresh place. "Well," he said, "you must all drink at my expense this time and I will never again object or oppose anything Taylor undertakes or proposes, for no other person living could have brought us through that crooked rough place." He kept his promise.

When we got to the Wabash river, we undertook to push our Ohio boat upstream, but after a hard day's work we made about three miles and the

largest part was backwater, the Ohio river being very high, with slack water in the Wabash for some distance. The following morning we started. It was as much as we could do to hold our own. After working in this way for an hour, without gaining but little, Duffield commences swearing that it would take some time to get to Terre Haute at these licks. I found that our boat could not be taken up that way, and while Duffield was scolding about our snail's pace, I turned the boat out into the current and we floated back to the mouth of the river. "Now," says Duffield, "It's my treat again, for I would never have thought of turning back to take a fresh start."

The intention was to wait for a steamboat which had been expected for a week or two. After remaining there for a day or two, we agreed to draw cuts who should stay with our goods until the boat came along. The lot fell tot Rumley. We left him with the understanding that he was to remain until he could get our freight on a boat. The lot fell on the wrong man, for he had been married but a few weeks and had sent his wife through by land to meet at Crawfordsville. Three days was as long as Rumley could think of waiting for a steam boat, so he traded off our Ohio boat for a large pirogue, hired two Frenchmen, and put out for Terre Haute with our goods and when he got to Vincennes, he wrote me at Terre Haute to come to his assistance. He had got that far in Twenty-two days hard work and out of pocket forty or fifty dollars.

The night I arrived there, the long looked for steamboat came along and with some difficulty I got our articles aboard and then had to walk a quarter of a mile to wake up Rumley and then got back just as they were pushing off.

I remained in Terre Haute about a year without doing much. I was taking a seasoning in the way of being sick. I had made up my mind to leave the Wabash and try a southern climate. I had been very saving and had money enough to travel with, besides notes for cash and about $200, payable in salt. These notes I intended leaving with Mr. Linton, merchant. I went to his store with the intention of purchasing a hat and leaving the said notes. William C. Linton took me back where they kept such articles as hats and commenced squaring hat after hat on my head. After several trials he got one which covered my ears. "There," he said, "that fits exactly. Just look in the glass." I observed that there was no doubt but I looked well and it fit skin tight and if I could continue to wink I would cheerfully take the hat. He laughed very heartily. After I suited myself in a hat, he began questioning me about leaving Terre Haute and after hearing my statement, he declared that I should not stir a step and must remain with him. They were in want of a young man, and he felt sure I would suit them. So in a day or two, I was behind the counter selling goods, and I remained there with the firm

three years, without leaving their employ but three weeks. During all of that time there had been nothing said about what wages I should have, nor was the subject ever mentioned.

After the third year, I was sent out to hunt a location to sell goods. I selected Lafayette, Indiana, and in July 1827, I opened a small lot of goods in a logbuilding they used as a court house and situated on the banks of the Wabash river between Main and Ferry streets.

* * * * * * * * *

This young man Taylor lived but three years in Terre Haute, yet he too, was one of its makers, as were indeed Robert and Rachel (Bailey) Brown who preceded him to Lafayette (Digby's Landing).

Taylor has given us a picture of one of Terre Haute's first merchants, reliable, honest. Oakey quotes Captain William Earle's description of Wm. Linton. "William C. Linton kept store east side of the public square. He was a small, spare, yellow complexioned man. He would walk back and forth behind his counter when not busy, very rapidly with his arms swinging as if in fierce debate with some unseen person, but not without courage. I have seen him exhibit that quality in a remarkable manner. No man ever did more for Terre Haute than William C. Linton."

This "small, spare" man had been busy. In 1821 he settled Dr. Aspinwall's estate, was issued in Terre Haute in 1824 an early merchant's license to sell foreign merchandise with his brother David. By 1827 he had a carriage. Young Taylor may not have been impressed with its elegance. He does not mention it. Linton dealt in real estate, helped organize the Terre Haute Branch Bank, served as postmaster, as legislator and commissioner. The store seemed to be moved around a bit, located at south-east corner Third and Main, again at Main and Second. He and his brother remained in business together until 1835 when they both died within a month of each other.

The David Linton home was one of Terre Haute's show houses. It stood in the center of a large piece of ground at Sixth and Ohio Streets. Later, much later, it was moved forward. It was occupied by the Maumee Colleries but has been torn down some years now. The William Linton house was at Spring Hill. Like many other early Terre Haute merchants, he was strict, commercially honest. Young Taylor received good training. Like many others he moved on to expand business in greener pastures. It was the trend of the day, the trend of pioneers. Many good citizens left Terre Haute after a short stay, for Clark and Edgar Counties, Illinois, and for Park, Vermillion and Putnam Counties in Indiana. If there could be established a list of those who lived in Terre Haute at least a year before 1830, the names would cover many pages.

The included quotation was selected from *Where Rivers Went Merchants followed, The Autiobiography of John Taylor,* by Marion H. Gray who added the introduction and conclusion.

18TH INDIANA HISTORY WORKSHOP

The History Workshop will be held at Canyon Inn, McCormick's Creek State Park, Spencer, Indiana, from Thursday evening, April 25, through Sunday morning, April 28. A modest registration fee is charged. You are welcome to come for all or part of the program. Reservations for rooms should be made directly with the management of Canyon Inn. The Indiana History Workshop is sponsored by the Indiana Historical Bureau, the Indiana State Library and the Indiana Historical Society.

For details of the program consult any member of the Indiana Historical Society or call the Museum 234-9717.

MYSELF WHEN YOUNG

Notice has been received by the Society of the publication of a book entitled *Myself When Young* by Karl Detzer, who presently lives in Leland, Michigan. It is an account of his early days in his hometown of Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Following is a condensed review of *Myself When Young* written by Doug Anderson of United International.

Myself When Young by Karl Detzer. A warm account of American life spanning a dozen years around the turn of the century. Despite the title, it is less an autobiography than an account of the community where the author grew up. Detzer's boyhood home was in Fort Wayne, Ind. and his book tells about him and his town from the time he was two until he was 13. There was nothing especially remarkable about Detzer's early life, a fact of which he is not ashamed. . . The book is a fond recollection of such notable events as a number of nefarious barn-burnings, the visit of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show and the day Uncle Gustave was struck by lightning—occasions which were milestones on the road through life in a world now gone beyond recall.

* * * * * * * * *

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 18, 7:30 P.M. Vigo County Historical Society at the Museum—Mr. Vincent Clews will talk on his Documentary about Paul Dresser.

Published monthly except July and August by the Vigo County Historical Society. Editor: Juliet Peddle — 513 Tribune Bldg., Terre Haute, Indiana (address all mail concerning change of address and material for publication to the above address).

DUES: Regular membership—$2.00. Contributing Membership—$5.00. Dues and mail for the Society should be addressed to the Society at the Museum, 1411 South Sixth Street.

The Vigo County Historical Society meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. except during July and August.

The Museum is open on Wednesdays from 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. and on Sundays from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M.

---

513 TRIBUNE BUILDING
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA
47801

RETURN REQU

Mrs. John C. Ross
Miss Elizabeth Ross
4430 Wabash Ave.
Terre Haute, Indiana
47803

Non-Profit
Organization
BULK MAIL
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 75
TERRE HAUTE, IND.

"GAY NINETY" CHARM
GREETS MODERN LIVING

GAS LAMP

GASLAMPS are low in cost, they operate 24 hours a day at a cost of only a few pennies per month.

GASLAMPS offer safety to the home, brighten up dark areas and discourage prowlers...

- ALL-STEEL FRAME... WELDED FOR STURDY LIFETIME CONSTRUCTION
- BONDERIZED FINISH, PHOSPHATIZED TO RESIST RUSTING
- YOUR CHOICE OF BLACK OR BRONZE BAKED ENAMEL FINISH
- FLINT GLASS CHIMNEY, ELIMINATES NORMAL BREAKAGE
- NOT AFFECTED BY WIND OR RAIN

TERRE HAUTE GAS CORP.

632 CHERRY ST. • PHONE 234-1561